

REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for the thorough consideration given the present application. Claims 1 to 8 and 23 to 27 are currently being prosecuted. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider his rejections in view of the amendments and remarks as set forth below.

Specification

The Examiner objected to the specification and recommended that the description of the drawings be placed in the appropriate location. Applicants have now moved this section as required.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 1 to 22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Examiner pointed out difficulties with claim 1 and suggested an amendment. By way of the present amendment, Applicants have adopted the Examiner's suggestion and revised claim 1 as new claim 23. Further, Applicants have added one additional word, namely in line 9 of the Examiner's version, after "substrate", "to" has been added. Claims 9 to 22 have been cancelled, rendering the remaining indefiniteness problems moot.

In regard to claims 2 and 3, the Examiner pointed out that nickel was not appropriate. Applicants have now amended claim 2 to remove this possibility. Also, page 9 has been amended to indicate that the material refers to the first and second substrates.

In regard to claim 7, since spin coating is now included in claim 23, antecedent basis is present.

In regard to claims 9-11 and 20-22, this problem is rendered moot by the cancellation of these claims.

The Examiner also points out that the terminology "the said" has been used throughout the claims. This has now been corrected.

New claims 24-27 have been added to replace claims 9 to 11. Also, dependent claims 2 to 8 have been reviewed to correct various informalities.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 12 to 14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being obvious over Iida et al. (5,171,392) in view of Kerfeld (6,190,838). Claims 15 to 22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being obvious over Iida et al. in view Kerfeld and further in view of Yamasaki et al. (6,524,418). These rejections are respectfully traversed. Since the claims have been cancelled, these rejections are rendered moot.

The Examiner has indicated that claims 1 to 11 would be allowable if the indefiniteness rejections were overcome. By way of the present amendment, all of the problems indicated by the Examiner have been overcome. Thus, it is believed that claims 1 to 11 are now allowable.

CONCLUSION

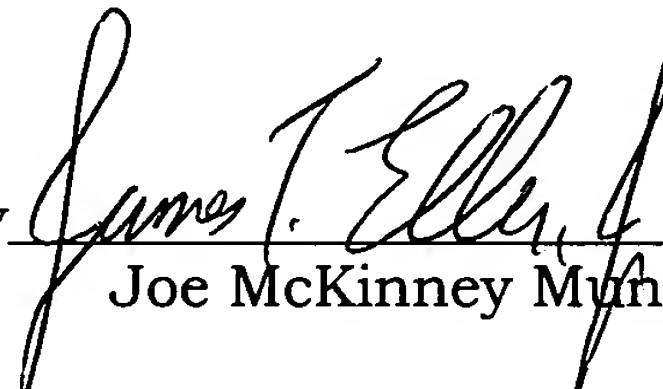
In view of the above remarks, it is believed that the claims now fully meet the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112. In view of this, reconsideration of the rejections and allowance of all the claims are respectfully requested.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned, at 703-205-8067, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner of hereby authorized in this, concurrent and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees, including extension of time fees, required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

By  #39,538
Joe McKinney Muncy, Reg. No. 32,334

P.O. Box 747
Falls Church, VA 22040-0747
(703-205-8000)

 KM:RFG/mks/slb